



Access Road

An access road is a travel-way for equipment and vehicles, as well as livestock. When constructed as part of a conservation system, the road can provide a fixed route for vehicular travel for management of the livestock operation that also serves to protect adjacent natural resources.



Brush Management

Brush management includes removal, reduction, or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants. This practice helps to:

- manage noxious and invasive woody plants,
- restore desired vegetative cover to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, improve water quality and enhance stream flow,
- improve forage accessibility, quality and quantity for livestock and
- protect life and property from wildfire hazards.



Windbreak

Windbreaks and shelterbelts are linear plantings of single or multiple rows of trees, or shrubs or sets of linear plantings. When used in conjunction with a confined livestock system, a windbreak can provide the following benefits:

- improve air quality by reducing and intercepting airborne particulate matter, chemicals and odors,
- provide living noise screens and visual screens,
- provide shelter for structures or livestock and
- reduce wind speeds in the confined area.



United States Department of Agriculture

Prescribed Grazing and Associated Practices

Conservation Available Through EQIP



Prescribed Grazing is a conservation practice through the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that is gaining popularity throughout Wisconsin. For this practice, pasture is divided into smaller areas or paddocks, often using portable fencing. One paddock is grazed for a short time, while the remaining paddocks rest and recover in a planned sequence that takes several factors into consideration, including the rate of plant growth, level of vegetative cover, needs of the grazing animal and other environmental inputs. The availability of water throughout the grazing areas is also important because it minimizes concentrated areas of livestock and enhances nutrient distribution.

For producers who manage cattle operations, prescribed grazing systems offer an effective way to reduce energy use, decrease costs, and improve animal health and productivity. Well-managed grazing systems improve the health and vigor of plants, enhance the quality and quantity of water and reduce accelerated soil erosion and improve soil health.

Due to the many benefits that prescribed grazing offers, NRCS will assist producers in putting together a grazing plan, implementing the plan and even offer cost-sharing if funding is available. The prescribed grazing conservation practice is typically implemented with one or more of the associated practices listed below.



Prescribed Grazing

Prescribed grazing is applied as part of a conservation system designed to accomplish one or more of the following objectives:

- improve or maintain health and vigor of key forage species and maintain a stable and desired plant community,
- provide or maintain food, cover, and shelter for animals of concern,
- maintain or improve water quality and quantity and
- reduce soil erosion and improve soil condition for resource sustainability.



Fence

Fence is a practice that may be applied on any area where farmers need better control of animals or people. Fences are typically used to facilitate better management. Considerations include:

- livestock management, such as handling, location, adequate watering and feeding facilities,
- separating out landscape features,
- improved forage quantity and quality to meet livestock demand and wildlife movement needs.

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Livestock Pipeline

Pipelines are used to deliver water from a source of supply to points of use for livestock or wildlife. Pipelines can be essential for a successful prescribed grazing plan. For livestock water, the installation should have a capacity to provide seasonal high daily water requirements of 20 gallons per day per animal unit (1,000 pounds live weight) for the number and species of animals onsite.



Watering Facility

A watering facility (tank, trough, or other watertight container) provides access to water for livestock and/or wildlife at selected locations. Watering facilities are particularly suited to facilitating a prescribed grazing plan. This facility can:

- protect and enhance vegetative cover through proper distribution of grazing,
- control erosion through better grassland management, and
- protect streams and ponds from livestock contamination.



Forage and Biomass Planting

These plantings establish adapted and compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay or biomass production. Key decisions include seed preparation, seed and species selection, grazing requirements and biomass harvest frequency. When properly established, this practice can:

- improve or maintain livestock nutrition and health,
- provide or increase forage supply during periods of low forage production,
- reduce soil erosion,
- improve soil and water quality and
- provide feedstock for biofuel or energy production.



Stream Crossing

The stream crossing practice consists of a stabilized area or structure constructed across a stream to provide a travel way for people, livestock, equipment or vehicles. This practice can:

- improve water quality by reducing sediment, nutrient, stream loading,
- reduce streambank and stream bed erosion and
- provide a crossing for access to other grazed lands.



Heavy Use Area Protection

This practice helps stabilize areas frequently and intensively used by livestock that require treatment to address resource concerns. Roofed livestock winter feeding stations provide a place for animals to feed during bad weather. Other heavy use areas (typically around troughs or as pads for feeding areas) are protected with vegetative cover or hard surface materials such as aggregate or concrete. This practice can:

- reduce soil erosion,
- improve water quantity and quality,
- improve air quality and aesthetics and
- improve livestock health.



Trails and Walkways

The trails and walkways practice is used to facilitate the movement of animals, people, or off-road vehicles. When used in a grazing system, this practice is typically used to provide or improve animal access to forage, water, working/handling facilities or shelter. It is also used to improve grazing efficiency and distribution and protect ecologically sensitive, erosive or potentially erosive sites.

